Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 ITC-01 SAJ-01 /082 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3890

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAREUR

CONFIDENTIAL USBERLIN 0266

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, WB

SUBJECT: TARIFF FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS TO BERLIN:

NEXT STEPS

REF: USBERLIN 230, 215

1. WITH REGARD TO FIRST STEP IN THIS MATTER, OUTLINED PARA. 5 REFTEL, ALLIED MISSIONS AGREED JAN. 24 TO RECOMMEND TO BONN GROUP THAT MISSIONS SEND LETTERS FROM ECONOMIC ADVISORS TO REICHSBAHN ADVISING THEM THAT THEIR LETTERS CONCERNING TARIFF INCREASES WERE MISADDRESSED AND THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY THE SOVIETS. BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH BRITISH (CHAIRMAN) PROTOCOL OFFICER WOULD INFORM HIS SOVIET OPPOSITE NUMBER CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER. ALLIED MISSIONS WOULD THEN AWAIT ANTICIPATED SOVIET REQUEST THAT RAILROAD TARIFF ISSUE BE DISCUSSED.

2. MISSIONS WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FREIGHT RATES MIGHT BE RAISED SINCE REICHSBAHN HAD ALREADY BEEN RECEIVING PART OF ALLIED FREIGHT COSTS. HOWEVER,

MISSIONS WERE RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER ADOPTING NEW PRACTICE OF PAYING REICHSBAHN FOR PASSENGER COSTS. QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF 1946 REMAINED SATISFACTORY TO THREE WESTERN POWERS, AND THERE SEEMED NO REASON TO ACCEPT UNILATERAL CHANGE IN A PROCEDURE WHICH HAD WORKED FOR 31 YEARS. POINT WAS MADE THAT EXISTENCE OF WSB DEPENDS ON A NUMBER OF SUCH IMMEDIATE POST-WAR AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED UNDER MUCH DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. SOME, I.E. REICHSBAHN TARIFFS AND AIR CORRIDORS, BENEFIT WEST; OTHERS HAVE BEEN LESS THAN SATISFACTORY FROM WESTERN STANDPOINT. IT WAS BEST NOT TO SIMPLY ACCEPT DESIRE OF EAST TO MAKE CHANGES BUT RATHER TO RESIST THEM. GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT SOVIETS SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE TOLD THAT ALLIES SAW NO REASON TO CONTEMPLATE CHANGE WITH RESPECT TO ALLIED PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

3. AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED NOT RPT NOT AT THIS EARLY STAGE TO SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS IN TRAIN SERVICE AS A POSSIBLE QUID PRO QUO FOR AGREEING TO SOME INCREASE IN RATES. DAVIS

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